

7. (Amended) The mower head of claim 6 wherein said [arm] actuating member is mounted on said deck at a location spaced from said hinge.

13. (Amended) The mower head of claim 9 wherein said deck further compris[ing]es a fourth side and at least three side walls, one depending from at least three of said four sides, wherein two of said at least three side walls are rigid.

18. (Amended) A mower head comprising:  
a deck comprising:  
at least four sides, and  
three side walls, one depending from each  
of three of said at least four sides, wherein two of said  
three side walls are rigid;  
at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to  
said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said  
deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said  
blade; and  
a guard assembly comprising:  
an actuating member mounted on said deck,  
a hinge extending between two of said at  
least four sides of said deck,  
a guard attached to said [pivotal arm]  
actuating member and pivotally attached to said deck via  
said hinge, and  
a flap which depends from said guard.

Please add new claims 26-37 as follows:

26. A mower head comprising:  
a deck having at least three sides;

at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to  
said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said  
5 deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said  
blade; and

a guard assembly comprising:

a guard pivotally attached to said deck at  
an obtuse angle in relation to sides of said deck which  
10 are adjacent opposed ends of said guard, said guard  
including a first wall which comprises an approximately  
straight edge and a second wall which comprises a  
plurality of angled sections, and

a wall which depends from said guard.

27. The mower head of claim 26 further comprising a  
holding member for holding said guard in a first position  
in relation to said deck.

28. The mower head of claim 26 wherein said deck  
further comprises a flap depending from one of said at  
least three sides of said deck.

29. The mower head of claim 26 wherein two of said  
deck at least three sides are normal to each other and a  
third of said deck at least three sides is positioned at  
an obtuse angle in relation to said two of said deck at  
5 least three sides.

30. The mower head of claim 26 further comprising a  
hinge for pivotally mounting said guard to said deck.

31. A mower head comprising:

a deck having at least three sides;

at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to  
said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said

deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said blade;

a guard assembly comprising:

5 a hinge extending between two of said at least three sides of said deck,

a guard pivotally attached to said deck via said hinge; and,

a holding member for holding said guard in one rotational position in relation to said deck.

32. The mower head of claim 31 wherein said holding member comprises a hydraulic cylinder and a piston, said cylinder including a chamber surrounding said piston.

33. The mower head of claim 32 wherein said guard is attached to one of said hydraulic cylinder and piston and another of said hydraulic cylinder and piston is attached to said deck.

34. The mower head of claim 31 wherein said guard includes a first wall comprising an approximately straight edge along which said guard is mounted to said hinge.

35. A mower head comprising:

5 a deck comprising at least four sides,  
at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said blade;

a guard assembly comprising:

10 a hinge mounted on said deck, said hinge extending at an obtuse angle in relation to sides of said deck adjacent opposed ends of said hinge,

a guard pivotally attached to said deck via said hinge; and,